

## Don't Let This Fourth of July Blow Up in Your Face!

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July just around the corner, Michigan NETS would like to help make it a safe and enjoyable holiday. Traditionally, holidays that fall over a long weekend are a time when too many motorists choose to drink and drive.

Nearly four of every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related collision at some time in their lives according to the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration. In 2005, 1,129 people died on Michigan roads. Thirty six percent – 408 deaths – of all traffic fatalities in Michigan were contributed to alcohol and/or drug-related crashes.

Whether throwing your own party or going to a friend's, there are things you can do to prevent alcohol-related crashes. Below are some helpful tips to keep safe this July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### *When hosting your own party*

- At the door, collect everyone's keys and put them away.
- Have a bartender and set a maximum number of drinks per guest.
- Serve non-alcoholic drinks such as virgin mixes and sodas, etc.
- Monitor your guests and how much they drink.
- If you encounter a guest who's had too much to drink, use a soft, calm approach to suggest alternatives to driving.
- Try not to embarrass them; talk to them privately.
- If it is someone you don't know well, have one of their friends reason with them.
- If you encounter a guest who does not want to relinquish their keys, call a taxi for them or provide sleeping arrangements, but use whatever techniques possible to prevent them from getting behind the wheel.



### *When going to a friend's party*

- Coordinate with friends or spouses to designate a driver before leaving.
- If you are going by yourself and you plan to drink, make alternate arrangements to driving such as walking or taking a cab.
- Make arrangements with the host to spend the night.
- If there is no alternative to driving, **DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL AND DRIVE**



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